

ABSTRACT

A process for preparation of montelukast or a salt thereof is provided, the process including reacting a late intermediate compound which is 2-[1-[1- R -3- [2- (7-chloro quinolin -2- yl) vinyl [phenyl] -3- [2 - methoxy carbonyl phenyl] propyl sulfonyl methyl] cyclo propyl] acetic acid or a salt thereof with methyl magnesium chloride or methyl magnesium bromide in an organic solvent. In one embodiment, the process includes reacting an earlier intermediate compound which is methyl 2 - (3 - R - (3- (2- (7-chloro 2- quinolinyl) - ethenyl) - 3 hydroxy propyl) benzoate with methane sulfonyl chloride or toluene sulfonyl chloride to obtain a mesylated or tosylated derivative of the earlier intermediate compound; followed by a reaction of the mesylated or tosylated derivative with 1-mercapto methyl cyclopropane acetic acid in a polar solvent in a presence of a base to obtain the late intermediate compound.